

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a system that includes a tracking menu that tracks the movement of a position transducer, such as a stylus or a mouse, as the transducer is moved about in association with a display. The menu is typically displayed on top of other objects in the display. The menu includes a tracking symbol, such as an arrow or cursor, positioned corresponding to inputs from the transducer as it is moved by a user. A mobile tracking region is also included. This tracking region has a tracking boundary or edge enclosing the tracking symbol where the tracking symbol is movable within the boundary or hits without the menu moving. The tracking region or entire menu moves in correspondence to the tracking symbol when the tracking symbol encounters the boundary or hits while the symbol is moving. The tracking region also has menu controls or buttons that are activatable when the tracking symbol corresponds to the controls. When a stylus of a tablet PC is used as the transducer, the menu tracks the stylus as it moves above a tablet display and the controls are activated when the stylus touches the display at a control. When the stylus moves out of the tracking range of the tablet, the menu stops tracking and when the stylus returns to tracking range the menu jumps to a new position on the display corresponding to the stylus. The tracking menu can take many shapes, including a mouse, a linear menu, etc. The tracking region need not coincide with the visible boundary of the menu. Stylus functions are performed, such as painting, when the stylus touches the display in a region not corresponding to a control and the menu becomes invisible while tracking during function execution. The tracking menu can be pinned or locked in place allowing the tracking symbol to cross the edge of the tracking region without moving the menu. When the tracking menu encounters a persistent object, such as a menu bar, transducer events are provided to the persistent object and the tracking menu is displayed in a non-dominant position.